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Statement of Aerial Photographic Reconnaissance Requirements for NIE 11-6-54

1. The requirements included in this statement are based on a preliminary and partial analysis of the character and location of reported or suspected guided missile test ranges near Kapustin Yar, USSR, and related photo targets for which reconnaissance photography might yield valuable intelligence for the National Intelligence Estimate NIE 11-6-54, "Soviet Capabilities and Probable Programs in the Field of Guided Missiles".

2. The problem consists of indicating flight lines, optimum and maximum permissible flying heights, ground areas covered by single camera focal lengths and fan configurations, and the variety and quantity of photographic film required to provide the photographic coverage from which the physical features, organization, activities and scope of the Soviet guided missile program at Kapustin Yar might be interpreted.

3. Locations and photographic coverages of the proposed photographic reconnaissance runs are graphically indicated on map enclosure (a). Supplementary details and reconnaissance suggestions are indicated as follows:

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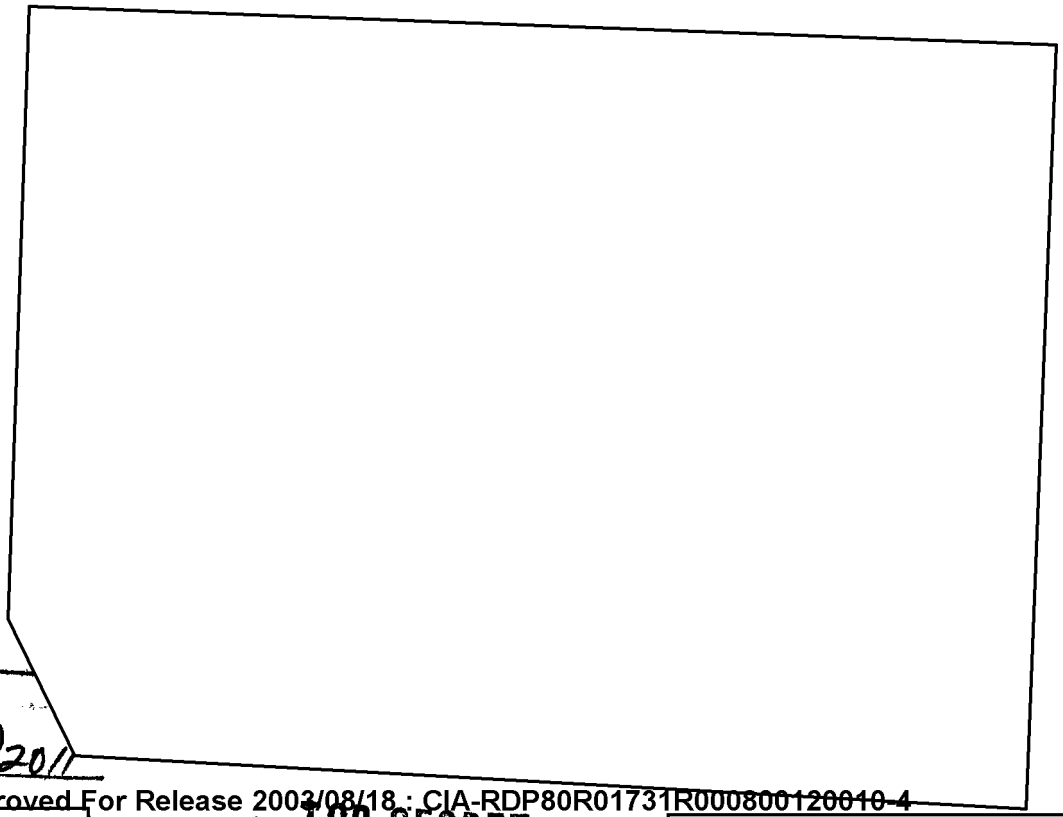

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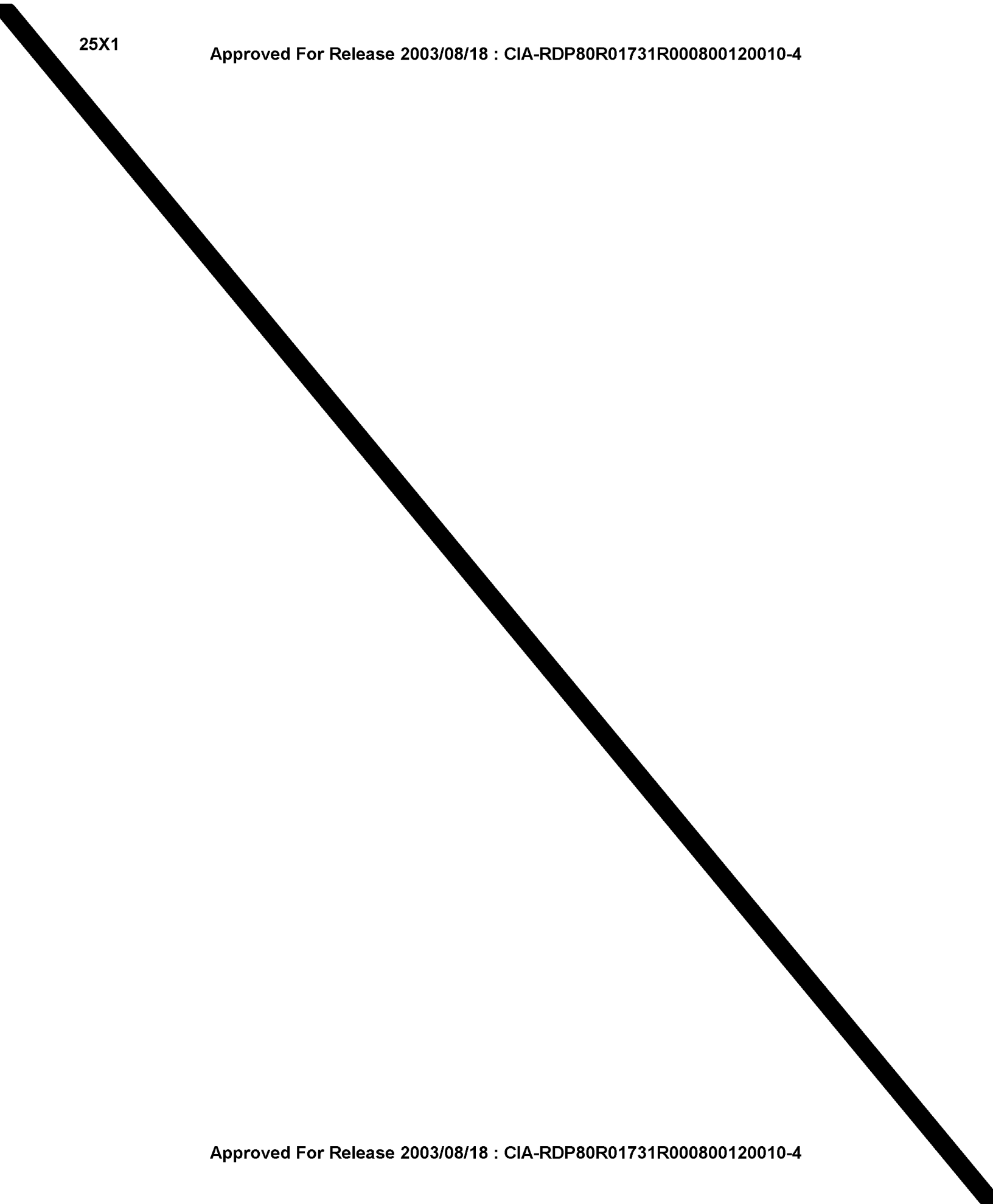

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e. Supplementary Flight and Instrumentational Records

It is almost redundant yet necessary to state that the more accurate the flight records are taken and instrumentational photography is recorded the more complete and efficient the whole intelligence collection operation becomes. Accurate flight leg data, time and track records and concentrated radar scope photography in the vicinity of built up areas grading to periodic scope coverage at extended range over open terrain are most vital supplements to the aerial photographic records themselves.

f. Flight Planning Operations

It is the accepted responsibility of Operations and not of Intelligence to set forth the details of a flight plan allowing proper provision for briefing and debriefing activities. The foregoing requirements data are offered for information, guidance and whatever use Operations chooses to make of them in the field. In addition to the primary guided missile test range targets at Kapustin Yar it would be expected that secondary built up target areas would be covered as targets of opportunity on the approach or retiring courses.

The degrees of added risk attached to different flying heights, approach and retiring courses, and increased camera and film loads must be evaluated in the field. It goes without saying that should the risk logistics permit, even more film and complete track coverage would be important. On the other hand if the loads already listed are too high some sacrifice could be made in [redacted] coverage. The primary objective is to cover the guided missile test range head and separate ranges eastward and southeastward of Kapustin Yar at as large a scale as practicable and over as wide a lateral range as possible for a distance of several hundred miles.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Deputy Director/Intelligence

THROUGH : Deputy Director of Central Intelligence Concur CPC

SUBJECT : Overflight of the Soviet Guided Missile Test Range

1. Mr. Strong of my Staff has discussed with General Samford methods of obtaining a decision on overflight of the Soviet guided missile test range, possibly in time to assist in the preparation of National Intelligence Estimate 11-6-54, "Soviet Capabilities and Probable Programs in the Field of Guided Missiles". General Samford indicated that a letter from you to the Chief of Staff, USAF, along the lines of the attached would be the most effective starting point.

2. It is recommended that you approve this approach and sign the attached letter to the Chief of Staff, United States Air Force.

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H. MARSHALL CHADWELL
Assistant Director
Scientific Intelligence

Attach: Letter

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Executive				20 May			19 May
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ER		5/21		5/21	0900		21 May
DDCI		5/21		5/21	1615		25X1 May
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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIREC R

The attached letter to General Twining has been approved by General Cabell in draft form. Its purpose is simply to encourage those elements in the Air Force that are pressing the development of overflight capabilities. I recommend that you send it as the first of several moves that I hope to discuss with you, all of which have to do with air reconnaissance, satellites, and the like. I am trying to make an appointment with you and General Cabell in the next three or four days to discuss these matters.

[redacted]

RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.

15 October 1954
(DATE)

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1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

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